

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-02 IO-03 PRS-01 EUR-10

RSR-01 /060 W

----- 130304

R 191632Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8833

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3928

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GV LI FR

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF PRISONERS HELD BY GUINEA

REF: MONROVIA 3914

1. I SAW MINFINANCE STEPHEN TOLBERT ON JULY 19 AS FOLLOW UP TO MEETING OF YESTERDAY CONCERNING PRISONER RELEASE. TOLBERT STATED THAT HIS INITIAL REACTION IN RECEIVING MESSAGES YESTERDAY WAS TO CANCEL THE FLIGHT; HOWEVER, PRESIDENT TOLBERT INSISTED THE EVACUATION FLIGHT PROCEED AS SCHEDULED. PRESIDENT WISHED TO ASSURE THAT NO REPEAT NO FRENCHMEN WERE IN FACT ON AIRCRAFT BEFORE ASSUMING A STERN POSITION VIS-A-VIS SEKOU TOURE. TOLBERT SAID THAT

TWO FRENCHMEN WERE AMONG THE GROUP OF PRISONERS WHICH ARRIVED FROM CONAKRY AND BOTH ARE CURRENTLY IN MONROVIA. THE REMAINDER OF THE PRISONERS ARE MOSTLY CREW MEMBERS FROM BOATS SEIZED BY GUINEA. AS AN ADDED GESTURE SEKOU TOURE ALSO RELEASED AN IVOIRIAN FISHING BOAT SEIZED BY GUINEA FORCES. IN RESPONSE MY QUESTION, TOLBERT SAID THERE WERE "21FRENCH FAMILIES" STILL UNDER DETENTION IN GUINEA. IN CLOSING MINFINANCE TOLBERT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT FRANCE WOULD NOW RESPOND IN A FASHION
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TO MAINTAIN A SENSE OF MOVEMENT TOWARD RESTORATION OF RELATIONS

BETWEEN FRANCE AND GUINEA.

2. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THROUGHOUT THIS ENTIRE EXERCISE NO
REFERENCE WAS MADE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY BY EITHER AMBASSADOR
SHERMAN IN CONAKRY AND THE TOLBERTS HERE.
MANFULL

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NNN

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